XL.

Mr. Henry Baker *F. R. S. to the* Preſident, *concerning an* Earthquake *felt at* Winbourn *in* Dorſetſhire, May 4. 1749. *and of another at* Taunton *in* Somerſetſhire, July 1. 1747.

SIR,

Read May 17. 1750. AS the two remarkable Shocks of an Earthquake, lately felt at *London*, may probably excite a Curioſity of knowing what of the ſame kind has happen'd in other Parts of the Kingdom within theſe few Years, I wrote, about a Week ago, to a Siſter of my Wife, who lives at *Winbourne* in *Dorſetſhire*, deſiring her to ſend me the beſt Account ſhe could collect, of an Earthquake, which, in one of her Letters ſome Months ago, ſhe had mention'd to have felt herſelf at that Place, in the Month of *May* laſt Year; and the Subſtance of her Anſwer is as follows:

She ſays, that, on the 4th Day of *May* 1749. about 10 o' Clock in the Morning, ſhe was ſtanding at one of the Windows in her Chamber, her Son (a Boy about 9 Years old) was ſitting on a Bed in the Middle of the Room, and her Siſter was in another Chamber two Rooms from her, all on the ſame Floor; when they heard a ſudden Blow (ſo ſhe expreſſes it) that ſeem'd to be very near, which ſhook the Houſe ſo much, that the Windows rattled, and the Floor ſhook very much.

The Royal Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Philosophical Transactions (1683-1775)*. www.jstor.org

and frighted her to ſuch a Degree, that ſhe cried out, Lord have Mercy upon me, what is that? Supposing it had been a Burſt of Thunder. Then looking out, the Sky was very clear, without any Cloud near at hand; but there ſeemed to be a heavy Cloud hovering at a Diſtance, whence ſhe and her Siſter imagined the Shock came; for they had then no Thought of an Earthquake.

There was, ſhe ſays, but one Blow, with a Noiſe very loud, like the Diſcharge of a Cannon; which made her ſend to inquire if there were any Powder-Mills in that Part of the Country, but was aſſured there were none. Her Husband (Mr. *Boſton*) was then at a Place called *Caſhmoor*, on the *London* Road, 6 Miles from *Blandford*, and about 8 from *Winbourne*, where he heard it in much the ſame manner. Their next Neighbour was at the ſame time 12 Miles diſtant, and heard it there; and every body ſaid it was an Earthquake.

It was heard at *Shapeck*, about 4 Miles from *Winbourne*; and at a Place called *Eaſtbrook*, about half a Mile from *Winbourne*, the People ſay it threw the Pewter off the Shelves. She ſays, I may depend upon it as a Truth, that it was heard 20 Miles round *Winbourne*; and adds, that People were very much frighted, but no Harm was done.

I had, Sir, the Honour, two Years ago, to lay before you an Account of an Earthquake felt at *Taunton* in *Somerſetſhire*, and for 40 Miles in Length as well as Breadth, on the 1ſt Day of *July*, in the Year 1747. which was communicated to me by the Rev. Mr. *John Forſter*, who happen'd at that time

to

to be there by Accident. It was likewiſe by mere Accident I came to the Knowlege of what I have juſt now been deſcribing: Which induces me to imagine, that Shocks of this kind may poſſibly happen more frequently than is commonly ſuppoſed, tho' we hear nothing of them: For, in Country Places, People are ſo little attentive to ſuch Matters, that, unleſs ſome conſiderable Miſchief be done, they mind them very little at the time, and, as ſoon as over, think no more about them.

I have the Honour to be, with all poſſible Reſpect,

SIR,

Catherine-ſtreet, May 10. 1750. *Your moſt obedient Servant,*

H. Baker.

XLI.

Part of a Letter from M. de Reaumur *F. R. S. to the* Preſident, *concerning an* Earthquake *felt in* France, October 11. 1749.

Paris, April 23. 1750.

Read May 17. 1750. ON *Saturday*, the 11th of *October* 1749. about 7 in the Evening, there was an Earthquake in *France*, which, according to my own Inquiries, reached one Way above 60 Leagues in Extent, from our Coaſt of *Poictou* beyond *Luçon*, as far as the Neighbourhood of *Blois*.